

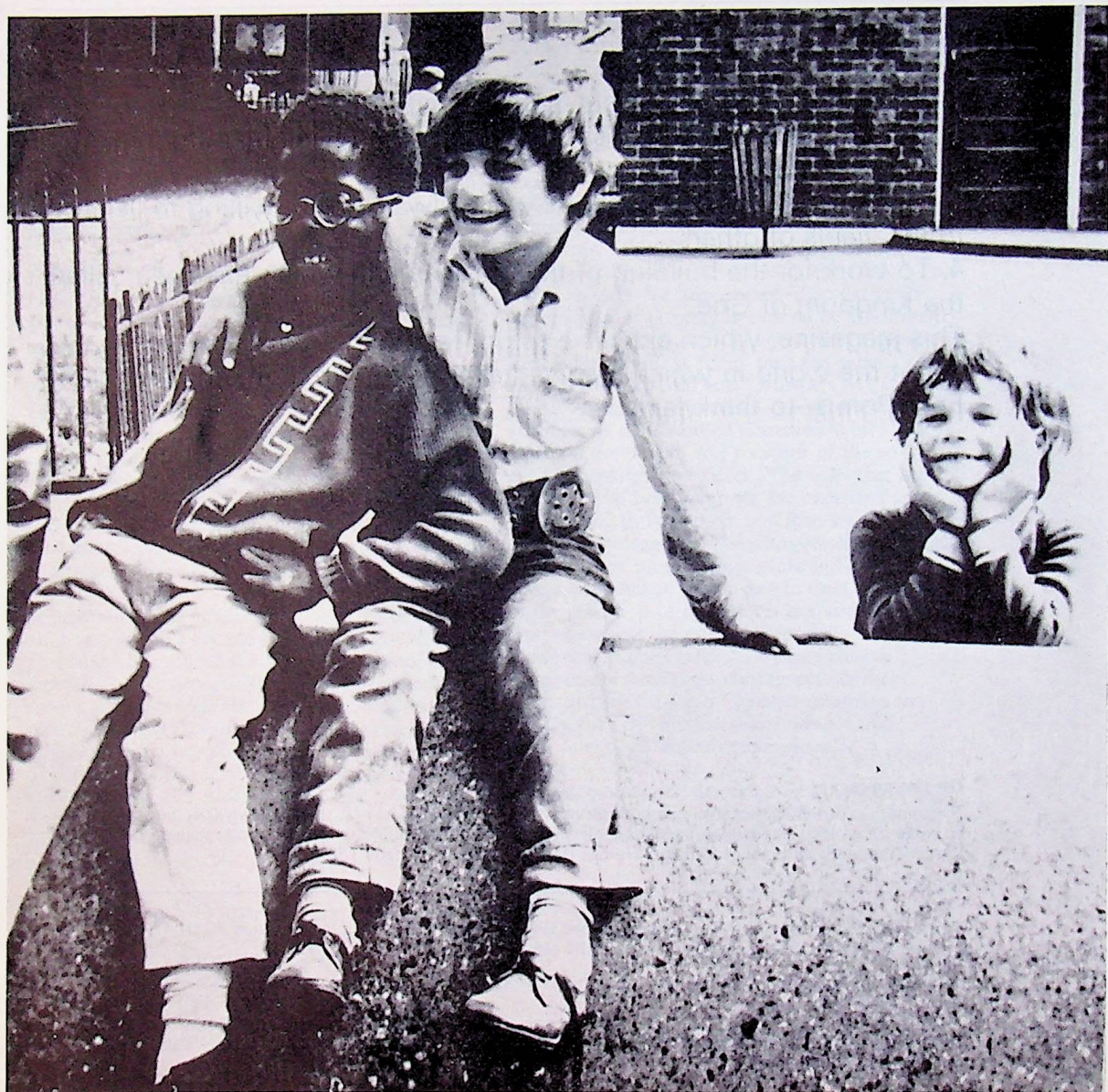


The monthly magazine of Toc H

John Cox

7p July 1972

POINT THREE



POINT THREE

July 1972

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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

- 1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man
- 2 To give personal service
- 3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others
- 4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

On the cover:

This month sees the start of this summer's project season. The results of a survey of why people volunteer to come on projects appears on page 122. The photo was taken during the Hackney playscheme. An article to mark the tenth birthday of Prideaux House, Hackney, begins on page 130.

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VIEWPOINT

A token gesture

Who cares about world poverty any more? We give our money to Oxfam or Christian Aid or one of the other organisations, according to taste, but the horror posters have lost their power to shock. Our imagination has been dulled and we have come almost to accept starvation as one of the unchanging facts of life. The problem is too far away to have much impact and too vast for us to be able to do anything about it.

In *Point Three* we have an article on the subject about once a year (this year's article appeared last month); but that's little more than a token gesture. And token gestures seem to be about all we're prepared to offer. Intellectually we recognise that the vast, and increasing, inequality between the developed and the underdeveloped countries represents a potential source of conflict; but there doesn't seem to be much moral fervour around these days. The danger has been with us so long that we've ceased to fear it. We've lived with injustice and inequality so long that our consciences have ceased to prick.

Something called UNCTAD 3 took place in Santiago, Chile, a couple of months ago; though you could be excused for being unaware of the fact since most papers allotted very little space to this world conference on trade and development. However I remember one comment from UNCTAD, the suggestion that the problems of poverty and injustice throughout the world are indivisible and need to be tackled together. To deal with the problem of inequality between nations involves tackling also the inequality which exists within Western societies.

Toc H is committed to an attempt to create the kind of society which Jesus envisaged when he spoke about the Kingdom of Heaven, a society based on love. We have to start where we are, with the poverty and deprivation immediately around us, but our compassion should not be limited to our own neighbourhood or our own country. As our experience in Toc H widens

and deepens so inevitably our attitudes change. And if anything effective is ever going to be done about poverty, in our own society or on a global scale, changes of attitude are more important than technical economic considerations.

Frank Field, a Toc H member who has given much of his life to working for development in many different parts of the world, has given me a copy of a paper prepared for the United Methodist Board of Missions in the USA. This paper stresses the importance of a change in *our* attitudes if poverty is ever to be eradicated in distant societies, with which we have apparently little contact. 'It is time,' says the paper, 'for the Christian church and Christians to "Christianise"—meaning, humanise—the people and the societies of the so-called Christian West; and to serve the people and societies of the so-called non-Christian East. The ones that are "in" need to be converted, the ones that are "out" need to be served. . . Once we have come to the shattering—and liberating—realisation that we ourselves must change more in Christ's image and change others less in ours, a reversal in the direction of our efforts has already begun.' And elsewhere the paper talks of the need for 'discipleship once more to replace church membership, and the suffering yet obedient remnant believing in a Christ triumphant to replace the self-righteousness, wealth and worldliness of a church triumphant'.

Years ago someone defined Toc H as existing 'to change chaps—beginning with me'. That is still the heart of the matter.

K P-B

Why did you volunteer?

That was the question which Peter Davis and Ray Fabes asked 400 people who came on Toc H projects for the first time last summer. Their report on the survey, which was an attempt to discover evidence about what impels people to volunteer for community service, appears just as another season of summer projects opens.

A report is also appearing in *Social Work Today*.

It was in the hope of shedding some light on the motivations of volunteers that we carried out a survey among 400 people who undertook voluntary work for the first time in the summer of 1971. They volunteered in response to a poster put out by Toc H inviting people to join teams of volunteers on children's camps and playschemes, in hospitals, in holiday schemes for the blind, physically and mentally handicapped of all ages, on surveys, decorating and nature conservancy tasks, and also on adventure holidays; a total of 30 settings in the United Kingdom and four on the continent.

It must be admitted that this was a very narrow sample indeed, with an average age of 18 for the female, and 20 for the male, volunteers. They were mostly from what could be termed 'middle class' backgrounds, although most of

the teams included boys from an open borstal and girls from a community school (formerly senior girls' approved school). All of the volunteers paid for their experience, an average of £3.50 per week.

400 questionnaires were handed out, and 375 replies were received, a very encouraging response rate. 57.2 per cent were in full-time education. Those at work (11.7 per cent) came from teaching, commerce, industry, social work and from the police (mostly cadets). The large percentage (13 per cent) who replied that they were 'out of work' included a sizeable number who said they were coming to look at social work with a view to possibly making one or other branch of the 'helping professions' their

Ray Fabes (right) at a Surrey boys' camp.

Photo: Pat Thomas



1 To get experience in working with children, with handicapped people, with the helping professions, or to get experience of social problems. To act as an introduction to social work, to gain insight into social problems and how the social services cope, or fail to cope	26·4%
2 To get a better understanding of life, to try and understand others, to meet and learn to tolerate other people from different walks of life, to try and make new relationships	18·6%
3 To work with interesting and dedicated people who enjoy their work, to get a sense of living in a responsible community , to get residential and group experience	11·7%
4 A chance to help deprived people, to do things that otherwise would not get done, to give practical service to the community, and 'to help others'	10·4%
5 To do something useful and worthwhile in my holidays, to do something constructive, to save my social conscience, to give and get enjoyment whilst helping others, to mix work with pleasure	9·6%
6 To fulfil my purpose in life, to experience and practise a Christian way of life , to gain personal satisfaction from helping others, to discover the challenge of new enthusiasms, and to discover what Toc H is all about	5·6%
7 To have an organised and interesting holiday , to live with and help others—mostly replies from those involved with holidays for the blind and physically handicapped	4·5%
8 Simply to get away from home, to gain self confidence, to learn to be independent, and 'to help without having to'	3·7%
9 To help others to help themselves , to be involved in community effort, to bring people together and be involved in community expression	3·2%
10 To broaden my experience, to widen my horizons , for curiosity, for interest, for the challenge of doing something different and interesting	3·2%
11 To experience life in a city or new environment	2·9%

career, if they liked the experience. This group also included those at borstal and community school as well as those who had just left secondary school and the universities and who had not yet found work, or would be starting in the autumn.

The answers to the question, 'Why did you volunteer for a Toc H project?' can, we suggest, be grouped in the following categories on the left. Statistically it is obviously not easy to draw any firm conclusions from these rough groupings, but it can be seen from the stated aims of the volunteers that they saw these opportunities as a chance to 'gain experience' and, in some cases, 'as an introduction to social work'. It is true to say that Toc H had never seen this as the aim of these programmes and it is significant, we suggest, that voluntary organisations are being used in this way. This ties up with comments in the Aves Report*, which quoted answers to similar questions from voluntary organisations: 'A fairly clear picture emerges: volunteers are thought to like jobs which have a clear purpose, results which can be seen, with a limited commitment, and which are appreciated by their clients. Some of them find social contacts important, and do not like jobs where they are working alone'. Our findings would certainly agree with these comments, but the feeling that one can 'test the helping professions' in this way could have some far reaching implications and indications for voluntary organisations being 'used' as a way of introducing people to social work. It would be interesting to know if anyone else has done similar work, and whether they have come to similar conclusions.

Most of our respondents seemed clear about what they wanted to get out of the experience; all volunteers had something to say in response to this question, which was interesting in itself. Among the many interesting comments were: *To help ordinary people accept their conditions. Curiosity, interest in environmental and behaviour patterns.*

To experience treating physically handicapped people as normal.

An opportunity to press for more playground facilities.

To see what children are like out of school (a teacher).

To help repair some of the leaks of human society.

To gain human experience (an engineer).

To take some exercise that would be different (a policeman).

To gain self control (a borstal boy).

At the end of their project we also asked volunteers to complete another sentence in

* *The Voluntary Worker in the Social Services*, George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1969

Why did you volunteer? continued

answer to the question: 'What, if anything, do you think you have actually gained from this experience?' The answers can be compared with those given before the project, as follows:

Why did you volunteer?

32.0 %
20.0 %
14.6 %
18.6 %
9.3 %

Experience
Make new friends/Relationships
To help others/Don't know
Understanding
A change/Enjoyment

What did you actually gain?

15.3 %
49.3 %
5.3 %
15.3 %
2.7 %

The answers as a comparison are not easy to equate and there were nearly 8 per cent who honestly said they could not put their answer into words, and nearly 4 per cent who said they had just come to gain their residential qualification for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

However, taking a rough comparison only, these answers would suggest that there are considerable differences between what volunteers expected to gain and what they actually did gain. Why the difference? It could be that many gave the reply 'to gain experience' as the reason for their volunteering because they felt this was the answer expected, but then they learned that others too had just gone to make new friends, so were less apprehensive about putting this down as the reason following the project. The main reason for their volunteering may have been social all along. It could be speculated that part of the valuable 'experience' had been living and working in a group, and that this had made such an impression on them that it accounted for their change in emphasis.

We personally participated in, or visited, a total of 20 out of the 34 projects. Verbal comments to us and to the project leaders intimate that the volunteers had gained self confidence, had discovered an ability to mix and make relationships with a mixture of people, and had a better understanding of how others lived and viewed their lives, although they said that answers to those sorts of questions were very difficult to put into words. Some volunteers were very honest and made this point in their written, anonymous, answers to the questionnaire.

In answer to a second question put at the end of the project, 'What was the most important thing to you on the project?' the replies are much easier to tabulate:

Answers including:

'the group', 'the relationships made',
'the working togetherness'

70.7 %

'Being useful', 'the experience I was
looking for'

21.4 %

No others were answered, or if they were the answer was a 'don't know'. This is a very significant final set of answers, suggesting per-

haps that the answers to the first question 'Why did you volunteer?' might be very different if asked when a person volunteered on a future occasion. Many replies included phrases such as 'I got far more out of it than I put into it'. One of the purposes of this survey was to try

and gain some insight into the attitudes of people who volunteered for the first time, and we also asked people—if they could—to say what they felt was the purpose of the work they undertook in the name of Toc H. Their comments provide a fitting conclusion to the results of the survey, which, as we stated at the outset, primarily attempted to answer some of the questions about why people volunteered, and what they did it for:

To broaden the horizons of many different people and to help the less fortunate, where possible.

To bring people of different backgrounds together to help the community.

To stimulate a community to help itself.

To bring total strangers together doing worthwhile work at the same time.

To offer greater understanding of different attitudes, difficulties and personalities, plus the chance to enjoy oneself in helping others to enjoy life to the full.

Peter Davis worked for Toc H as a project leader in the South Eastern Region last summer. He has just completed a youth and community work course.

Ray Fabes returns to the full time staff of Toc H this month, after completing a two year social work course. He will be based in Peterborough.

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In March: Rose M Dye (Newport, IOW).

In April: Leslie J Bilbe (Christchurch with Southbourne), Olive B Church (St Leonards), Gwyneth Lilley (St Helens), Winifred Revell (Totnes), Ethel Ribens (Minster in Sheppey), Fred H Stanford (Edgbaston), Jean Turnock (Higham Ferrers), D Elgar Williams (Coomb Cheshire Home).

In May: Leonard S Marshall (Oswestry).

We give thanks for their lives.

TALKING POINT

When does 'permissive' become 'compulsive'?

Bob Knight

The 'permissive society' seemed long overdue when the idea first appeared on the scene. Fashion held people, not only the female of the species, in too tight a grip, whether it was the length of skirt or width of trouser leg. Everyone wanted to be 'with it', though some might be less influenced than others, changing their style less and more slowly. Hair is not only the title of a stirring musical. It is a clue to understanding the desire of people in this and the last decade to be individuals and have their own style.

All this broadening of choice in personal appearance was accompanied by an even more welcome break-down of rigid preferences in music. We take our inheritance of music for granted, but what a wealth of sound there is. What human mood has not been caught in music? And now we can claim without apology to enjoy a piano concerto, and a Glen Miller arrangement, Kathleen Ferrier, the Beatles and Harry Mortimer's 'Men o' Brass'.

The exploration of our capacity for variety has had its extremists, even its freaks. The urge to be 'way out' like everything human could be exaggerated. For some, the permission to be different and to be themselves, became a compulsion to be different in order to be themselves. Somehow, however, though we are not sure how, we defend ourselves from the influence of the freak. Even the anxiety that he may arouse does not last after we have lost sight of him.

The 'permissive society' has nevertheless extended its influence to the realms of personal behaviour. We have been encouraged to explore our capacity for varied experience or 'kicks', with drugs and sexual stimulation. Here too, the first appearance of permissiveness seemed overdue. After all some pertinent questions still remain unanswered on the drug scene. If tobacco and alcohol are permitted, though they can be shown to be dangerous in excess, why are 'soft' drugs not legal? The answer appears to turn on the question of addiction: whether so called 'soft' drugs do prove addictive to some (as tobacco and alcohol are), and whether the search for kicks will lead from a soft non-addictive drug to a hard, addictive

one. The answers here may not be entirely dependent on our moral judgement of right and wrong. Medical science has evidence to help make the appropriate choice, both individually, and as a society in our legislation. In the area of sexual stimulation the issue is more difficult. The publication of magazines and novels with circulations of many thousands raises the question of what is pornographic, and what is harmless entertainment. 'If pornography is the sale of a commodity, then the Christian contends that it is a fraudulent sale. . . . To associate it with freedom of speech is to downgrade the whole argument for human liberty.'¹

On the other hand the Christian attitude to everything sexual was long due for a challenge. The human body can have breath-taking beauty of shape and a fascinating grace of movement. The pleasure we find in seeing this beauty and grace is God-given and the prudery in much of the Christian tradition is rightly exposed for having associated guilt with this pleasure. Sexual behaviour between individuals is a question more difficult to explore. Where the 'permissive' argument goes unchallenged, again it is in danger of becoming 'compulsive'. The moderates should speak so that there is a choice, and the younger generation expects more than silence from those who disagree with the progressives. A mutually agreed decision that they will not have intercourse can enable a man and a woman to form a mature relationship. Though this may be for months, even years of courtship, it will turn out to be the foundation for a lasting mutual sexual attraction and enjoyment of one another's company. Were they not too modest and inarticulate, there are many parents who would say so to their teen-age children, who feel a pressure to be 'with it'.

The question to ask those who promote the 'permissive society' until it becomes the 'compulsive society' is, who is giving the permission? Who is making money out of pushing the notion (and all the artificial stimuli)? Why should we not instead aim at a 'responsible society'? Like a daily dose of tender loving care, that would be a nice change.

1 Sir Fred Catherwood speaking in Edinburgh and reported in *The Guardian*, 24.4.72

Fifty Years On

A further selection of branches which are 50 years old this year.

Exeter

The branch was started in 1920 when Pat Leonard was at Cheltenham and Tubby travelled down to the South West to contact those men of Exeter whose names were on the Communicants' Roll of the Upper Room at Poperinge; names such as Henry Michelmores, Donald Wippell and others. He and Barkis had just conjured up that now world famous symbol of Light, the Toc H Lamp, and craftsmen of Messrs Wippells of Exeter made the first prototype. This firm have made all Toc H Lamps ever since.

In 1931 the South West was made a separate Area and the branch acquired their present home, Toc H House, 42 St David's Hill, jointly with the local Boy Scouts Association. 'Forty-two', as it is often called, is a middle-class residence of the late Georgian/early Regency period and has occupied a significant place in the life of Toc H, and other organisations, throughout the South West.

In 1958 the Scouts chose to withdraw from the responsibility and maintenance of 'Forty-two' and the branch became the sole owner. The house has always been regarded by us as a job of community service in itself. Hardly large enough to be a Toc H centre, such as we have seen in recent years, it has been the first home for many local organisations of great worth, such as the International Friendship League, Scouts, the Business and Professional Women's Club, Alcoholics Anonymous, the old Police Court Mission, Discharged Prisoners Aid Society and a regular meeting place for cycle touring clubs, anti-vivisectionists, Youth Hostels Association, the Coffee Pot Club and others.

Currently it is the home of the Samaritans, the Cancer Campaign, the Toc H women's branch and our local over 60's club. Undoubtedly, its greatest single task was as a hostel for service personnel throughout the last war. Over 80,000 service men and women slept there and the doors never closed. Surplus funds from the sale of teas, cakes etc, were used to furnish the

Toc H Services Centre, B.A.O.R., Hildecheim, Germany, appropriately, we think, named Exeter House.

The branch seems to have done its stuff in the field of extension starting with the St Thomas branch which hived off from Exeter in 1936. In more recent years it has played a part in establishing branches at Topsham, Budleigh Salterton, Alphington, Whipton and Cullompton.

Among our various jobs we might claim to have produced Bishops for the Church of England and brought ex-prisoners into Toc H. The Bishops were formerly branch padres and we are still doing our best with Reg Chapple, our current branch padre, but Reg says 'not a hope'. We slipped up once and only produced a Dean, to wit the Dean of Exeter, Marcus Knight. Our ex-prisoners are not with us now but spent many post-war years in Toc H and are going along well, a credit to themselves and perhaps to Toc H, who knows?

The branch was the first organisation to enter the newly built Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital in 1928. Our connection is still maintained although much of our service has been taken over by other keen people. We have run film shows at local hospitals. For many years we also took evening services at the orthopaedic hospital until chaplains were appointed, but we still help with children's services there.

We have also had our militant moments such as the occasion when we complained about the conditions we found in the Workhouse (Poor Law Institution) which we visited regularly by rota. So much so, that Toc H was refused admittance. We overcame this by sending along members, each a rate-payer of the city, who demanded admittance as of right. From then on conditions were improved beyond recognition. On another occasion we tackled the local hospital management committee about the plight of visitors to patients who had to queue in the rain until the wards were opened; this time we had to use the Mayor as a weapon to force their hand. Signposting to public lavatories and starting the telephone trolley service in the hospitals also fell to our lot. Individual

jobs were, and still are, very varied; members became involved in prison visiting, Scouting, blood transfusion, Civil Defence etc. In the 1930's one man, Peter Pedrick, answered Tubby's appeal for manpower for leprosy relief and the branch kitted him out.

Our jobs today range from decorating and gardening for the old and infirm to running outings for them and for disabled patients. A Christmas feature in Exeter is our distribution of food parcels and toys. We are helped by local cinemas, Top Rank Clubs, churches and many others; transport is by Moose and we liaise with other organisations.

We have always felt convinced of the importance of life within the family of Toc H and visit another branch at least once a quarter without fail. The branch has also provided officers at Area and District level almost without a break.

Our branch strength before the war was 53 with an average attendance of 25. The branch strength today is 10 and with one member in Berkshire, we have an average attendance of eight or nine and no 'passengers'. We are a fairly good mixture at present but getting somewhat elderly, a police officer, a musician, a parson, two professional gardeners, both just retired, a bloke in the Electricity Board, one ex-Ministry of Labour, a bank manager and an estate agent.

Birthday celebrations are another 'bce in our bonnet'. We tired of the annual 'do' which seemed to take the same format of church, speaker, char and wads and decided to essay a variety concert, quick fire and well presented. This we do every five years and invite branches from all around, together with many local friends. We usually play to a packed house and our next effort is planned for December 14, 1972. This is a birthday affair and not a money-raiser.

Peter Danmers

Leicester

How can one possibly condense 50 years of Toc H activity into a few lines? 50 years from the days when a few men met beneath a lamp post in Leicester. 50 years which have seen numbers rise to 80 and fall to the present level of a dozen.

It would be easy to make a list of the jobs the branch has been, and is, engaged upon. A

Sunday Night Club in the 1920's, assistance at the Cripples Guild, running the canteen for showmen when the fair came to the city, canteens for servicemen during the second war, playing cards with elderly patients every Friday at a local hospital, assisting at the Anchor Club for discharged prisoners, running the library trolley round the wards at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, and—even more up to date—helping out during the February fuel crisis by chopping logs and delivering coal. Yes, and many others. But would this present a comprehensive picture of branch life? Compared with many branches our corporate acts of service may be small but, to quote the title of an old TV series, Toc H is not so much a programme, more a way of life.

Here in Leicester that way of life was brought into motion by one man, the Rev Hugh Sawbridge ('Sawbones'). His name is synonymous in Leicester history with Toc H. Two of our present membership have a Toc H background dating back to the days when the padre was the life and soul of the branch. Memories too of 'Major' and his wife, the first wardens of Mark II. A list of members during the 50 years conjures up a wonderful 'mixture of men' but would this present a complete picture of half a century of Toc H in the City?

I think that Leicester branch can best be described as a runners starting block from which men have gone out into the highways and byways and carried to those who have lost the way the light that is not their own. For from our midst have gone out men not only to help start numerous branches in and around the City but also to be shining examples of Christian living in their various callings.

On December 16 we look forward to welcoming them all, or should I say all who have not joined the ranks of the elder brethren, to an afternoon service of Thanksgiving and Rededication and afterwards to what promises to be a memorable get-together. Our guests will include Arthur Perkins who not only saw service with 'Sawbones' in the trenches but who also received the Lamp of Maintenance on behalf of the branch from the Prince of Wales in 1922. Have you had any connections with Leicester branch over the years? You have? Good. Then we look forward to seeing you on December 16.

Derek Green

'Curry and chips make a good combination'

says Ashok Basudev. Ashok, who comes originally from Kenya, is a detached youth worker, dealing primarily with the Asian community in Tower Hamlets in the East End of London. He works in close co-operation with Peter East, the warden of Talbot House, Tower Hill. 'Integration,' he says, 'has to be a two way phenomenon. The barriers which divide people have to be broken.'

They all should.....
But *they* must.....
Why shouldn't *they*.....

Yes, why not? This in a nutshell is the essence of the discussions usually held on integration. What an unfortunate word! Distorted beyond reason by everyone. The politicians usually describe integration with vague definitions like 'allowed to live peacefully in one community', and 'allowed to practise their own cultures alongside other cultures', and given full freedom to 'pursue their own interests in their own particular ways'.

Nobody even wants to talk about the ways in which these different cultures or interests get incorporated. The impression I get is that we are being told to pursue a policy of separate development. Everybody seems to be hoping for a gradual 'rub off' of ideas and interests. I am getting annoyed about this wait and see policy, this hoping that someone else will get things moving.

In what little has been done, the churches have played their part. And what better way than appointing church workers, mostly wearing white collars, to educate these dark skinned strangers? During the 'Paki-bashing' era clergy frequently addressed hundreds of Asians at public meetings. Is it all simply propagating an image? I have really become tired of seeing the clergy occupying the VIP seats at most social occasions and giving long talks in English to people who do not even understand a word of the language! Perhaps it is the image which matters most.

One very interesting development which is influencing events in the field of race relations is the result of Powell's speeches concerning the



immigrants. Very few people are giving serious thought to the after effects of his utterances. If one very important criterion of integration is related to individual security then what he has done successfully is to make people feel more insecure. What saddens me most these days is the way the Church is going out of its way to entertain Powell. One often hears of his speeches to various church congregations throughout the country. He is getting successfully what he wants most—a banner of 'respectability' and the Church is being an instrument in providing him with it.

Integration has to be a question of mutual respect and understanding—not fear. Why do people of different ethnic origins propagate fear? It is always claimed that human prejudice is because of ignorance; I don't quite accept that. Nowadays the main media of education are the 'box' and the press—and of course 'leaders' of national importance who are listened to. If this is so, then we as humans have failed to live as individuals and we no longer have independent minds. Even our way of thinking has been taken over by the mass media—therefore it is not surprising that we fear each other. Some of our 'leaders' have exploited these fears and we, of course, have unconsciously, not ignorantly, believed that there is something to be afraid of. They are marrying our women and taking over our cities, why should they be allowed to do this?—because we have been told that they are different and possibly not as human as we are!

It is not just a question of eating fish and chips and playing bingo. It is a question of finding out why they do not. Do individual tastes matter? Curry and chips make a good combi-

nation. The only way we can learn and find out is by meeting and getting to know *them*—only then can we start talking about *us*, and not *them* and *us*. Life does become much richer when new experiences and situations are shared together. It is a gradual learning process and one often finds that things are really not that different and, in fact, there are always open channels leading to the sharing of experiences of mutual interest.

The essence of integration is perhaps the existence of harmonious relationships. Let us start behaving as individuals with independent minds. Let us for once start finding out who our neighbours are and how we can establish a dialogue with them. Let our social instincts be stimulated. It is *them* today, it might be *us* tomorrow. We need each other.

The problem that faces most people these days is the lack of existing opportunities where people of different 'flavours' can meet and intermingle with each other. This is the main cause of alienation. We all have to learn that instead of just meeting each other in fairly selective groups, we should break out of our cocoons and spread our visions a bit further. 'Integration' has to be a two way phenomenon. The barriers which divide people have to be broken.

By the very definition of the word there has to be interaction between ethnically different groups. It is the result of this interaction which will decide all our future relationships. There is a danger of assessing the results in terms of either victory or defeat, or of labelling people as 'exceptions'. It is this latter outcome which is worrying me. For something new to be fitted into our already prejudiced way of thinking is regarded as an exception and we clearly are in the habit of referring to people as exceptional. That's how I often refer to my friend and colleague Peter!!

Finally, I think we have to be equipped with some element of rationality. We are talking about humans and not chemicals. Therefore, judging people on the evidence of 'scientific' and 'statistical' data is, in my opinion, the height of human degradation. This sounds stupid but I believe that by making generalisations about people we are widening the split which, unfortunately, already exists. I am not saying 'hear no evil, speak no evil and see no evil' because then we wouldn't know the meaning of evil. All one hopes, or prays for, is that people start thinking fairly. This power will not be given by the Divine but can be achieved by listening to all shades of opinion and then deciding what is good or bad. Once the dogmatic urge in our process of thinking gives way to rationality we will be able to come to grips

with fear, hate, inferiority, exploitation and persecution—these are the very words which make the definition of integration virtually impossible.

Welcome Point

The following new branches were officially recognised by the Central Executive at its April meeting: Abertillery (j), Falmouth (w).

The following branches elected new members during May:

15-Alston (w).

4-Chalfonts (m), Wiggenshall St Germans (j).

3-Bognor Regis (m), Clacton-on-Sea (w), Glenrothes (j).

2-Carlisle (m), Edinburgh (w), Fulney (w), Harefield (j), Ickenham & Uxbridge (w), Leigh (Lancs) (j), Netherhall (w), Rushden (w), Saughall (j), Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay (j), Southern Area (j), Thurrock (m), Wellington (Som) (w).

1-Bala (m), Bedlington (m), Billingham (m), Bognor Regis (w), Bridlington (j), Buckingham (m), Budleigh Salterton (m), Central (j), Chingford (j), Cirencester (m), Croydon (j), East Barnet (m), Eastcote (w), Epsom (j), Exmouth (w), Gillingham (w), Hackney (j), Harpenden (m), Headingley (w), Hitchin (m), Ilminster (m), Lancing (j), Lapford (m), Llangollen (m), Maghull (w), Milton & Eastney (m), Netherton (m), Northern Area (j), Pant (j), St Ives (w), St Leonards-on-Sea (w), Salcombe (w), Seaford (j), Stockport (m), Stockport (w), Tavistock (m), Trimley (w), Tunbridge Wells (m).

We extend a warm welcome to the 96 new members.

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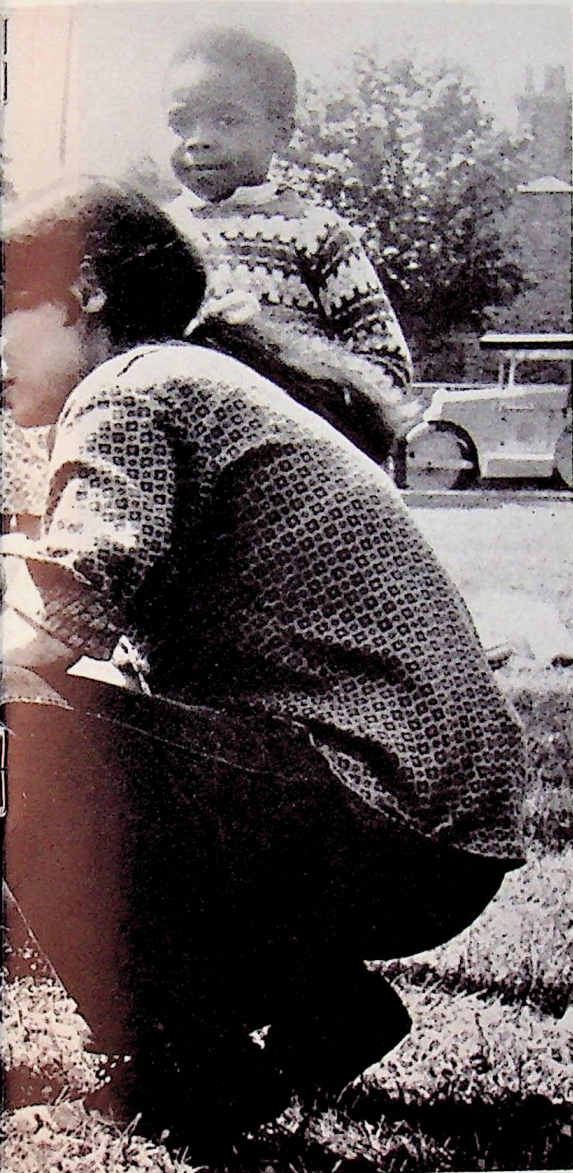
Sharing the life of Hackney

Prideaux House in the East End of London celebrated its tenth birthday on June 1. Gualter de Mello, warden and chaplain of the house, outlines some of the ways in which it is seeking to help the people of Hackney to meet the needs which exist all round them.



Launching rockets to the moon is as much fun for the volunteers as it is for the children. This photo was taken during last summer's Hackney play scheme.

Photo: Michael Jones



'Live peace, speak joy' is the motto which Prideaux House has accepted for its tenth anniversary year. 'People first, people matter' is the basic faith which underlies all its work, both at home and abroad.

Toc H in Hackney has done much to strengthen the 'twinning' scheme, by which towns and villages in this country are linked with places overseas. In its turn 'twinning' has come to play an important part in the life of the Toc H centre. 12 families from Hackney, brought together by Toc H, have just returned from a continental trip in which they visited Hackney's twin towns in France and Germany, as well as Toc H Services' clubs and Talbot House in Poperinge. Citizens of Hackney who only 18 months ago saw international friendship as a picture on a TV screen now experience the real meaning of friendship and are able to destroy the prejudices and suspicions born out of the war. The first Mark 3 was opened in 1920 at York Road, Lambeth—on part of the site now occupied by County Hall, the offices of the Greater London Council. The second Mark 3, on the site of the present Prideaux House, was opened in 1930. It was called Punch House as the funds had been mainly raised by *Punch*. The foundation stone of the present building was laid in May 1961. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's visit to Hackney on June 1 1962 to open Prideaux House is even today, 10 years later, remembered by many of our friends throughout the Borough.

In retrospect one of the most significant events in the history of the house was the 'wishing week' held in 1966. We asked a large number of people in our neighbourhood, 'if you had one wish for Hackney what would it be?'

The success of the 'wishing week' put Prideaux House on the map and Hackney Toc H came into existence. The survey exposed some of the needs of the community; these were followed up by the provision of a luncheon club for the elderly. A second survey in 1970 brought to light a desperate need for facilities for children and the annual summer play project has become very much part of the life of the house.

Toc H is aware of the needs of the children who, in this densely populated area, would otherwise play in the streets throughout the six weeks of the school summer holidays. A programme of creative activities, outings—days with the police, outings to the seaside and river trips and camps organised by Toc H branches in rural areas give the children and the voluntary helpers an opportunity to develop a feeling of mutual care, as well as proving that Toc H is concerned. A pre-school playgroup at Prideaux House caters for the younger children in our neighbourhood and an after school playgroup,

Sharing the life of Hackney *continued*

which has had its ups and downs, caters mainly for children who are unable to get into their homes until their parents return from work. Hackney is being redeveloped. The terraces and rows of back to back houses are being replaced by high rise blocks of flats. The old people suffer most from this destruction of the old East End community spirit. We have tackled the problem of loneliness by giving people an opportunity to meet during the day or evening on different occasions throughout the week. The Okey Cokey Club, with all the old songs and London dances, and the inevitable bingo for buttons, is the highlight of our evening programmes. Many of the elderly have had years added to their lives and it is enough for us to see their faces after an evening of real fellowship. The Fellowship Club, the Friendship Club, the Family Club and other social occasions prove how much can be accomplished simply by bringing people together.



We have tried to develop our neighbours' awareness of the needs around them and to help them to meet these needs. The formation of the South Hackney Citizens' Association, the Pensioners' Action Group, the Toc H Christian Action Group, the monthly Guest Nights and the Chess Club have all led us to a much deeper contact with the neighbourhood. The Citizens' Association has pioneered the production of a local paper, the *South Hackney Post*, which is an attempt to bring people together, and is also a protest against the quality of the existing local papers. It has brought to light some of the crises which exist all around us. This has led to the creation of the Toc H Friends Anonymous Service, which has established a mobile counselling service, through which Toc H can meet the people where they are and help them in practical ways. The Friends have spent hours on end at the local market or outside laundrettes, schools and post offices and have helped young and old, Jew and Gentile, coloured and white, of many nations and backgrounds.

The Service has unearthed many problems and, in particular, has made us aware of the needs of so many disabled people. The Toc H Disabled Club enables many of the handicapped people in the area to enjoy fellowship with other sections of the community, to come out of isolation and to mix with society.



Gualter de Mello, warden and chaplain of Prideaux House, takes part in a three legged race during the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, held to raise funds for the summer play scheme.

Photo: Molly Carlton

Now, 10 years after our opening, Toc H is part of the community and shares with the people around it the problems and the joys of everyday life. We see our future as a centre for Toc H in the East End of London, which will continue to act as a bridge, reconciling people to each other. Our quest for relevance in a fast changing society will lead us to discover new ideas, new problems and new insights. We in Toc H Hackney will continue, like a lighthouse shedding its beams of light, to show the many with whom we are in contact that Toc H cares and that people matter.

NEWSPOINT

LONDON WAREHOUSE BECOMES COMMUNITY CENTRE

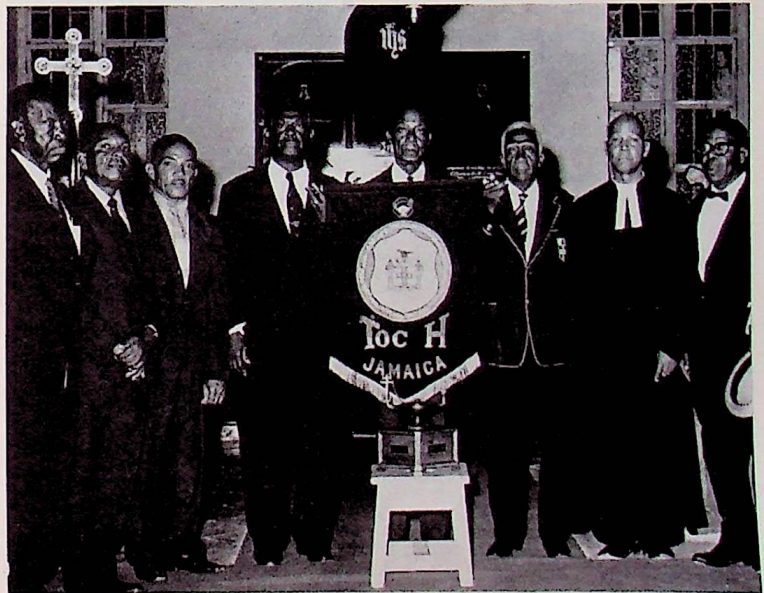
A 20 mile sponsored walk across London's bridges raised over £300 for Warehouse D. This disused warehouse in St Katherine Dock, just east of Tower Hill, is being converted into a community centre. The project is sponsored jointly by Toc H and Challenge (formerly Make the Children Happy) and is managed by a committee which includes representatives of the two organisations as well as local residents.

16 residents of Talbot House, Tower Hill, took part in the sponsored walk, together with residents of Matilda House and Stephen House, the blocks of flats which will be particularly served by the new centre, and other people from the area. Altogether about 85 people took part.

The warehouse has been made available for two years by Messrs Taylor, Woodrow, the developers of the St Katherine Dock site. Volunteers from Toc H and other organisations have worked throughout the winter converting it. Toilet facilities and electric lighting had to be installed and new fire exits created in addition to all the cleaning and painting. Now, after six months hard work by a great many people, Warehouse D is practically ready to open and the committee hope to appoint a full time community worker shortly. The scheme grew out of the playscheme run in the area last summer and Toc H will be running another playscheme at the warehouse this August.

Residents in the area feel themselves to be very cut off, a long way from the nearest shops and buses. As a result of the new community spirit brought about by the warehouse project a tenants' association has now been formed to press for more adequate facilities.

A recent photograph of some of the members of the Kingston, Jamaica, branch. According to branch secretary Percy Jarrett the main area of service undertaken by the branch is 'visiting, entertaining and conveying gifts of books, magazines, food and cash to hospitals, old people's homes and "shut-ins"'. Members also drive old people to visit friends and relatives, take them to church, and arrange outings for them.



The 60 mile swim

Over 100 swimmers, including headquarters padre Bob Knight, took part in a sponsored swim organised by Fairfield and Spring Park Districts in South London. Between them they covered 60 miles—3,000 lengths of the West Wickham baths. The swim raised over £550 towards the cost of summer camps for children from South London, being organised both by Toc H and by the Croydon Council for Community Relations.

Members of the Enterprise Swimming Club for the physically handicapped took part and they swam a total of 65 lengths between them. Mr Reg Smith, a member of the Club who is confined to a wheelchair, achieved a lifetime ambition by swimming 15 lengths. His previous best was 10. Members of the Club were sponsored by artists who are appearing in an International Concert being held to raise money for the camps.

DEAF SCHOOLCHILDREN CLIMB TRYFAN

Ken Butterfield *Toc H Mark 6*

On Sunday April 16, using mountaineering equipment borrowed from the Toc H Birmingham Outward Group, we took a party of deaf lads to North Wales and climbed Tryfan (3010 ft).

This was a one-day adventure course for boys in Birmingham schools for the deaf—some of whom had never seen a mountain before in their lives! The idea was to give them practical experience on the mountain as well as helping them to achieve something new. With the deaf, of course, everything has to be 'visual'—including talking to them! We communicated by using the combined method of oral speech and sign language and where we needed to stress certain words we used finger-spelling.

All of us thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and later in the year we hope to take a deaf group to Toc H Weirside, at Chapel Stile in the Lake District, for a full weekend. This will enable them to experience more activities and a feeling of belonging to a group such as this. The deaf are so very isolated usually—it is something new to live and work in a group.

When the residents of Mark 6 were redecorating the television lounge, we invited a couple of young deaf people to join us. They did so quite readily and even though one of them had a deformed hand he could easily paint with the

other, and made a good job of it! They asked, when we had finished the room, that if anything else was going on similar to this—could they take part.

The deaf so want to be accepted by the hearing world—they don't want sympathy showered on them. There are centres for the deaf in every major city in Great Britain—but what about the deaf in small villages and towns—miles from the nearest deaf centre? They are an integral part of our community with talents just like anybody else, but they are so often left out because of the communication barrier. How about inviting a couple of deaf people along on the next Toc H activity you're taking part in?



The dedication of Hythe, Kent, branch's coach was attended by about 150 people. Seen on the hoist with Tubby are branch padre Canon Benbow and the Mayor of Hythe, Alderman Charles Sanford. Hythe members worked hard overhauling and repainting the coach, which was given to the branch by Tunbridge Wells District, who now have a brand new coach. It will be used by Toc H and by the Old People's Welfare Committee.

Photo: Folkestone Herald & Gazette

Stimulating conference on social services

Ted Riley *Point Three Correspondent*

Two years ago following the publication of the Seebohm Report Tadcaster branch felt that it would be a good idea to bring together members of Toc H and people from the locality who were engaged in social service, either professionally or as volunteers. As reported in *Point Three*, this conference was addressed by Lady James of Rusholme, herself a member of the Seebohm Committee.

In the light of changes that have come about as the result of recent legislation the branch decided to hold a further conference this spring under the title of 'Social Services—the New Look'. The principal speaker was Mr Philip Hughes, the Director of Social Services for the West Riding of Yorkshire.

In the course of his comprehensive survey Mr Hughes stressed the vital need for co-ordination between the various sectors of the statutory social services; the importance of good communication so that people in need would know to which agency to turn; and the worth of efficient voluntary workers.

Following a buffet tea the conference re-convened for a discussion session with a panel consisting of the Principal Probation Officer for the West Riding of Yorkshire, the Deputy Director of Social Services for the North Riding, Colin Campbell of our South Eastern Regional Staff, and Mr Hughes.

The wide ranging experience of both the panel and audience ensured a stimulating and valuable exchange of ideas.

There can be no doubt that the reputation of Toc H is enhanced both locally and nationally by the holding of such conferences.

Elizabeth Cornette

We regret to have to announce the death, on June 8, of Elizabeth Cornette, whose help and hospitality was at the service of all visitors to Poperinge. A Memorial Service will be held at All Hallows Church on Tower Hill at 4 pm on Friday, July 7. The Poperinge Band will be in London at that time and will play during the service.

FORTY THIEVES AT TULIP FESTIVAL

John Orange *Point Three Correspondent*

Spalding Tulip Parade once again provided an opportunity for South Lincs District to do a spot of fund raising for Toc H. It was a joint effort and the profits from the sale of tulip garlands were shared equally between the Family Purse and the Midland Region Project Support Group. In order to set up a trade stand or stall on the showground there is a condition that all interested concerns must enter a decorated float in the Tulip Parade, a very impressive and colourful affair which this year attracted a crowd of 300,000 into this small Lincolnshire town.

The modest float entered by South Lincs was entirely the responsibility of West Pinchbeck branch who worked day and night in order to provide the remainder of the District with the opportunity to make and sell thousands of tulip garlands for little cost except hours of unpaid labour. About a thousand of these floral necklaces were prepared and put into cold store during the week prior to the festival week-end. These were to meet the initial demand when the crowds began to pour on to the showground.

During the early hours of Saturday morning the project team consisting of 14 young and lively members under the leadership of Hilary Geater arrived on the scene and after a brief rest got down to the business of keeping supply one stage ahead of demand, a task which would have had everyone out on strike in most other circumstances.

The 1972 Parade celebrated the 400th anniversary of the introduction of the tulip into Europe from Turkey so there was more than a touch of Eastern Promise and Turkish Delight about the whole thing and a decorated float was entered this year by the Turkish Tourism and Information Office. The Toc H effort was centred around Ali Baba and as many of his 40 thieves as West Pinchbeck branch could muster with the eager help of local school children; a rather villainous looking lot under their grease-paint and fairy tale finery.

By the close of operations on Sunday evening, the garland stall had raised a few pounds short of

the £200 target which had been set earlier but was up by about £10 on last year's total.

POINT TAKEN

Cleethorpes branch discussed changing the name of their annual 'mile of pennies' on Cleethorpes promenade following decimalisation. Ben Chatterton suggested 'a pile of p's' but the branch members were not impressed. The idea left them 'unmoved' so to speak.

The first meeting of the social club for the housebound, started by the recently formed Highbury, North London, group. A report on the formation of the group appeared in last month's *Point Three*.

Photo: J A Hamilton Studios



Cheshire film available

Group Captain Cheshire has made available to Chippenham branch a copy of 'Pathfinder', an hour long BBC documentary on his life and on the start of Cheshire Homes. Other branches who would like a loan of this film should contact Reg Coates, 27 Sadler's Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 3PB.

Following last year's successful visit of the Treorchy Male Voice Choir Chippenham are planning two more concerts this autumn. The Silver Ring Choir from Bath will be appearing on October 21, and the Ywysybwll Choir from Glamorgan on October 28. The Treorchy Choir has promised to return next year.

Reg adds: 'I was glad to see *Point Three* on public sale at Brecon Cathedral'. Our thanks to the local members who arranged for this.

Square One

I have a nightmare of a great crusade where it was suddenly noticed by someone that the Cross had been left behind.

Tubby *Toc H Journal*
January 1930

In brief...

● Bob Hilton, warden of Mark 5, Southampton, has resigned from the staff for health reasons.

● Alun Howells, newly appointed West Wales District padre, indulged in 12 hours non-stop organ playing, which raised £600 towards the cost of repairs to his church.

● The Lenton, Notts, over 60's club, run by Toc H members, celebrates its 25th birthday this year.

● One of the residents of Holchird Cheshire Home has joined the women's branch in Kendal.

● The Speaker of the House of Commons was one of the guests at a West Kirby Beacon branch coffee morning to raise money for this summer's boys' camp.

● Isle of Wight members invited six young students to join them on a Dor Knap weekend, and thoroughly enjoyed their company. Guest of honour at the weekend was former administrator John Callf, who lives in Broadway.

● Clive and Ethel Brough, of Codsall, Staffs, have celebrated their diamond wedding. Albert and May Phillips, of Margate, Kent, and Edgar and Gladys Fulks, of Watford, Herts, have celebrated their golden weddings. Gladys Fulks is pilot of Watford women's branch, which also celebrated its silver jubilee in June.

● Jeremy Saywell, who worked for a time in the projects office in London, is an active member of the Camden branch of the Disablement Income Group, which campaigns actively for a better deal for Britain's handicapped. The Camden branch, in North London, is holding a rally at Parliament Hill Fields on the afternoon of July 15.

● Charles Wake's appeal for used postage stamps has this year raised £304.46, £3 more than the previous best total. Remember him when you get postcards from overseas. The address? 7 Leyburn Grove, Paignton, Devon TQ4 5JH.

● The women's branch in Richmond (Surrey) has celebrated its 40th birthday, and has received messages of goodwill from Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and from former members, some from as far afield as Australia and Canada.

● Incidentally our apologies for any misunderstandings that may have arisen from an item in this column in January. The Richmond women's branch that is considering going joint is in Yorkshire. Richmond, Surrey, members have no such intention, but send good wishes to their namesakes in the north.

● Launceston branch in Cornwall 'now hopes to go from strength to strength', according to *Point Three* correspondent Ray Middleton, having found a new home in which to hold its fortnightly meetings.

Builders give more

'Many Builders have been moved to increase their subscriptions,' states Les Wheatley in his annual report to Area Builders' secretaries. The total amount received from Builders last year was £10,985, an increase of £768 over the previous year. However the number of Builders continues to drop and Les stresses that there is 'no room for complacency'. 'Builders occupy a vital place in the whole structure of Toc H,' he writes, 'not just for the practical value of their contribution, but their moral support and encouragement provide stimulation and inspiration within the Movement. ... New enrolments are as urgently needed today as at any time during the history of Toc H. The service record of Toc H is one we can well be proud of and we need not hesitate to use it in asking the wider public to share in maintaining and developing this active concern for the care of others.'

Les Wheatley also states that donations increased last year by £1,340 to £6,513.

Barnsley's music night

Barnsley branch in Yorkshire is the most recent of the many branches which have had an opportunity of increasing their enjoyment of music with the aid of the Rev John Hull, of the Midland Regional staff. John and his tape recorder were featured at a guest night to which members of neighbouring branches were invited. Comments Alice Hobson, one of the Ecclesfield women's branch members who attended: 'Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, so vividly illustrated. A most unusual new approach to Toc H.'

Bringing home an invalid

Prestonpans branch in Scotland is determined to do something to help Mr John Mitchell, who emigrated from Scotland to America several years ago. Mr Mitchell, who is now aged 33, did very well at first, and his mother and his nephew, now aged six, joined him there. Then he was struck down by an illness which has left him a permanent invalid. And so the three find themselves, in the words of a letter from the branch, 'paupers in a strange land'. The branch has invited other branches in Scotland to help raise the £400 required to bring the family home, and has itself pledged £45. The appeal letter adds: 'Should we be successful in bringing the Mitchell family home housing will be found for them. The welfare state will not be burdened by the addition of another case of need.' The branch secretary is T Dickson, and his address is 55 Wilson Avenue, Prestonpans, East Lothian.

SOUTH AFRICA RUGBY TOUR ATTACKED

You wouldn't expect a citizen of Llanelli to do anything which might jeopardise the playing of a game of rugby football, but members attending the annual meeting of the West Wales District Team passed a resolution expressing 'profound regret' at the decision of the Llanelli rugby club to accept an invitation to tour South Africa. And the resolution was moved by Alderman Harold Thomas, a former Mayor of Llanelli, and seconded by another Llanelli member, Jack Hurren. 'We are concerned because the precept of Toc H is Christianity and we abhor any type of apartheid,' said Harold Thomas. 'Our decision is not on political grounds but is based on our Christian principles. We cannot, as members of Toc H, subscribe to anything of this sort.'

A tradition explained

It's quite simple—you have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's on the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out too. When they're all out the side that's been out in the field comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get out those coming in. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. Then when both sides have been in and out, including not outs, that's the end of the game.

Harpden branch news letter

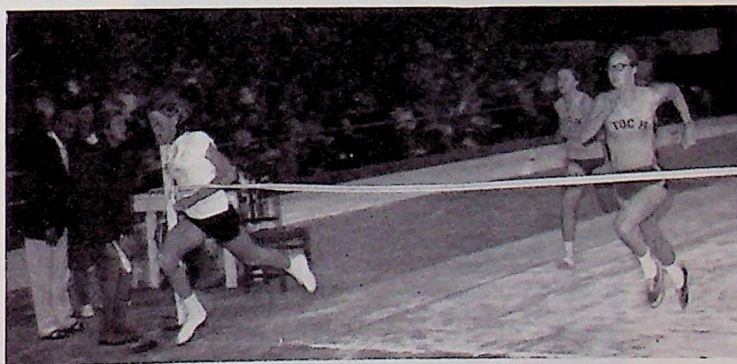
Pen friends wanted

Trivandrum branch in South India and Stella branch in Pinetown, South Africa would like to know of branches in the UK prepared to enter into regular correspondence with them, on paper, by tape, or both. Any branch interested is

Film projector for India

A note in last November's *Point Three* mentioned Bombay Fort branch's need of a 16mm projector for use in its 'Operation Cheer-up' in hospitals and old people's homes. Northampton District has responded generously to this appeal. The District's film unit has had to be wound up and it has offered Bombay not only its film projector but the whole of its equipment—worth about £150 in all—completely free. Among the items awaiting shipment to India are a speaker, a transformer, a spare lamp and three spare lenses, five reels of various sizes, a projector stand, a rewinder, a splicer, two screens and three short films suitable for practice. Meanwhile 'Operation Cheer-up' has already been launched, according to a recent letter from Bombay branch secretary, S John. Members have painted a hall of All Saints' Home for the elderly and have given their first film show there—with a hired projector.

asked to contact Greta Penness, international secretary, at Toc H headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London EC3N 4BS.



Breaking the tape at a recent indoor meeting arranged by the Toc H Athletic Club in Christchurch, New Zealand. The meeting included a wide variety of events for men and women, boys and girls, children and veterans, and paraplegics.

Faces in the Regions: Midland

Huw Gibbs



Far left:
Hilary Geater

Left:
John Mitchell



Far left:
George Lee

Left:
Joan Miller



Left:
John Hull

Below:
'Tommy' Trinder



George Lee was born at Sheerness, attended school there and technical college. His early training was heavily influenced by the closeness of dockyards and the navy, and he anticipated following his father and brother into dockside work. After failing a medical George was disappointed for a while but quickly involved himself in a printing apprenticeship. During the war he served in the infantry and the RAOC, moving over to REME when it was formed. A spell in the civil service, during which he almost applied for a Toc H post in Germany, was followed by George eventually joining the UK staff in 1952. Field work took him to the South West, Manchester (where he met his wife, Jill) and in 1957 to Australia where he stayed for three years. During this time Jill began teaching spastic children.

Four productive years in Lincolnshire produced four children, Simon, Jeremy, Tim and Sarah.

He moved to Birmingham eight years ago and recently completed a spell as Regional leader. George claims to have no special hobbies apart from enjoying his family, walking, swimming, and music. 'As long as we can enjoy things together,' said George.

John Mitchell, son of 'Doc', former Executive Chairman, was born at Beckley, Sussex. He has one sister who is teaching in Trinidad. John attended Tonbridge School and 'detested' every minute. His first real contact with Toc H was at Mark 2, during a five year spell training for law as an articled clerk. After qualifying John worked as a solicitor but favoured Toc H and joined the staff to assist with schools work. He was a pioneer of youth projects and acted as guinea pig for the first of them. Wife Jenny was also on the staff and they married in 1966. They now have two children. In 1967 John moved to Birmingham. Spare time interests are occasional work for the Labour Party, walking and climbing. An involvement with gypsies has also become a part of John's life and he gives some of his time and legal experience to a liaison group in Birmingham.

Hilary Geater joined the staff in 1970 to strengthen the schools and projects exercise. Before that she was teaching at a junior school in Nottingham.

Twenty-four years old and tenacious with it, Hilary took the steam out of many people's indifference by working through the night with homeless men and visiting their sleeping quarters in derelict buildings.

Trained at Loughborough College she has inherited that establishment's reputation for thoroughness. She has organised classes for gypsy children, redecorated houses and planned surveys, but claims her most notable achievement is 'remaining on the staff!' A mark of her success is that the Midland Region will organise 20 projects this year.

John Hull—to talk of John is to talk of music. His whole life has been devoted to mastery of singing and playing and appreciating music across the board from jazz to classical. Born in Grays, Essex, he attended Palmer's school where his interest in singing began.

For two years after school he was a management trainee with an oil company and went into the RAF for national service. He was posted to Singapore during the terrorist activity there but explained, 'I didn't do anything about it, I was too busy singing at the time.'

Further study at Brasted Place College and Salisbury Theological College resulted in ordination at Chelmsford in 1961. John moved to Clacton for his first parish and there met Karen his wife. As Clacton branch padre, John became interested in a staff position and was appointed Area Padre in 1966.

They have two children, Mark and Richard. John's special contribution to the Movement is in the arts field. 'Call me adviser in the arts,' he said. With his great talent for music and painting, and broadcasting experience to his credit, the mantle falls lightly on his shoulders.

'Tommy' Trinder—if you've been to Dor Knap, you know 'Tommy'. He is warden there and visitors cannot fail to notice his contributions of humour and organising ability. He is a Londoner, born at the Oval, and remembers well the 'twenties' with poverty and unemployment. He started work in the shoe trade and met Dorothy, his wife, who was working for Lilley & Skinner Shoes, also a Londoner, from Islington. Dorothy and Tom are a perfect team. 'We've never regretted trying each other on for size,' quips Tom. Battersea & Clapham was his first branch, joined in 1934. War service took him to France and Germany with the infantry, and afterwards Tom linked up with Barnet branch. 'Things were different then,' he said, 'people joined Toc H readily because of the depression.'

He became the Warden of Dor Knap in 1953 and is proud of his association with the lovely Cotswold centre.

Joan Miller is office secretary at Mark 6, and we wonder whether this is part of her self-confessed hobby of 'helping lame ducks'!! Born and educated in Birmingham, at the High School, and a commercial training school, Joan went into the Civil Service. She became a senior officer with the Ministry of Employment and her husband is a tax collector!

After marriage Joan did secretarial work for the Essex County pathologist. She has three children, twin boys now grown up and a daughter of 14.

Five years with Birmingham University as secretary brought her to 1968 when she joined Toc H as part time secretary.

Spare time interests include bible study, gardening and handicrafts.

Letters

World Poverty

This letter is being written in Christian Aid Week, when we are brought face to face with the fact that we of the developed countries waste more food than many in the under-developed countries have to eat—our dogs and cats are better fed than their children. Surely, then, we do not need our unemployed and our unused capacity to provide more wealth for ourselves. They should be used to feed the really hungry. How can an unemployed man in England and an idle machine be used to relieve want in the poorer parts of the world? Many unemployed would, I am sure, be quite willing to work for nothing while still receiving unemployment pay; and many industrialists, too, would allow the use of idle machines or empty transport for the good cause of feeding the hungry.

What stops these people doing what they are willing to do? Mainly the lack of a tried and trusted organisation to run the system. Surely Toc H fills the bill? The start surely is a declaration of intent. Let us call together lawyers, workers, trade unionists, churchmen and get from them an undertaking to help. Then, under the guidance of God, we ought to be able to use the brains, faith and machines available to solve one of the world's greatest problems.

Peter Bazeley *Bradwell, Norfolk*

The late elder brethren

I have just glanced through a recent *Point Three* and am disturbed to find that, as has often happened, it contains obituary notices of members who died six months ago. I well remember the outcry when the first numbers of *Point Three* contained no such notices at all: may I make my own outcry that the printing of such lists of names months after death has occurred is no tribute at all. It seems to me that it reflects a lack of concern on the part of those responsible for sending in such names, betraying indifference to the whole concept of remembering the elder brethren. Please, either refuse to print such long overdue notices, or relieve us of the obituary notices in their entirety.

Keith Beck *Taunton, Somerset*

The £2 million

'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' This is as true for institutions and organisations as it is for individuals. For a Movement such as Toc H which claims to strive for the Kingdom of God, £2 million could be an awful embarrassment. Money can either be used to do a power of good, or it can be an obstacle to prevent good being done. Sandy Giles wrote in May that the money would be invested and the income used: 'I think it is fairly obvious that part of the proceeds must be invested with an eye on security and income and part with an eye on growth'. I am glad to see that he mentions staff pensions and salaries as a priority. But personally I would think twice about continuing to give to an organisation with capital as great as Toc H. I believe we ought not to invest in the future, to store up our capital. We ought not to be looking for security for the future, but rather what gives life to the present. We must live on capital and not on income. This is sheer folly; but then I believe it takes a little foolishness to get into the Kingdom of God. Our first priority is to give life to the Movement today, rather than making sure that there is a something left for the children of tomorrow. So what do we do with £2 million? We should give at least a sizeable amount away, if not all. The money would be better used for development overseas than it would be for lining our own nests in this country. After all, as St Francis says 'In giving, we receive'.

Hugh Stevenson *Sheffield*

Your article in May is not written from the heart, as are most of your articles. You don't seem too happy about it. It certainly needs long and prayerful thought. Christ told the rich young man to get rid of his riches. What is he saying to Toc H?

You speak of investing the money, but what in? Are we proudly to accept dividends from armament firms? From breweries and distilleries? From slum property?

Why not give £¼ million each to Christian Aid, War on Want, Oxfam and Help the Aged on terms where we can perhaps have some say in using the money to the best advantage, helping to improve agriculture etc? Why not another £¼ million to be used in conjunction with Shelter to improve housing in this country?

This would still leave us with £750,000 to invest wisely, enough in all conscience.

W L Gates *Cromer, Norfolk*

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The remarkable Jock Brown of Gibraltar is featured in a special article by 'Tubby's' ADC, Chris Gent.

Together with full details of the move of Headquarters.



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